

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13-15, and 20-22 are pending. Claims 1, 4, and 5 have been amended and claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 12, and 16-19 have been canceled. None of the amendments to claim 1 raise new issues requiring further searching or consideration. Entry of this paper is therefore proper.

Following the filing of the Amendment on May 31, 2007, the Examiner issued a new rejection of claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 20, and 21 under 35 USC § 103(a) in view of a Tokunaga-APA combination. This § 103(a) rejection substitutes the Tokunaga publication for the previously cited Awamoto patent, but still relies on Figures 3 and 5 of Applicants' drawings (referred to herein as APA). Moreover, this rejection has been made final. However, the Tokunaga patent is even less relevant than the Awamoto patent, as will become more clearly apparent below.

Claim 1 recites that the "waveforms applied in the set-up interval of the first and second driving waveforms are different from each other." From claim 1, it is further clear that the first and second driving waveforms are applied at different temperatures, i.e., "applying a first driving waveform . . . at a first prescribed temperature" and "applying a second driving waveform different . . . at a second prescribed temperature."

Thus, claim 1 covers a method for driving a plasma display panel where different waveforms are applied in the set-up interval of the initialization period at different temperatures. (See, for example, Figure 7 for support. As shown in this exemplary non-limiting embodiment, in the section entitled "temperature more than low temperature," the common sustain electrode

Z is held at ground for a first part of the set-up interval and is left floating at a certain voltage for a second part (e.g., period T_d) of the set-up period. In contrast, in the section entitled "low temperature," the common sustain electrode Z is held at ground throughout the entire set-up period.) The Tokunaga publication does not teach or suggest these features.

The Tokunaga publication discloses changing the width of the same waveform applied in a set-up interval of an initialization period at different temperatures. See Figure 8, which shows that the same waveform (in this case, a rectangular waveform) W_{1L} and W_{1H} are applied to sustain electrode X during the set-up interval of initialization period T_R . The widths of this waveform are different at high and low temperatures.

Unlike claim 1, the Tokunaga publication does not disclose applying different waveforms in the set-up interval at difference temperatures. This is a significant difference because, by applying the same waveform at different temperatures, the Tokunaga method will not be able to achieve the level of brightness control and corresponding improved contrast the invention is able to achieve. (See, for example, page 18, lines 2-5, for a discussion of these performance advantages).

Concerning APA, Figures 3 and 5 show different waveforms applied during the set-up interval of an initialization period. However, Figures 3 and 5 do not teach or suggest applying these waveforms at different temperatures of a plasma display panel. Without such a teaching or suggestion or other objective basis, one skilled in the art would have no motivation to modify

the Tokunaga publication to apply the waveforms of Figure 3 and 5 at different temperatures, in the manner recited in claim 1.

More specifically, at best, in relying on the teachings of Tokunaga, one skilled in the art may be motivated to look for another waveform (e.g., ramp, etc.) to apply during the set-up interval. But in every case, Tokunaga would guide the person skilled in the art to only vary the widths of that same waveform at different temperatures, not to use different waveforms at different temperatures as required by claim 1.

In addition to these features, claim 1 has been amended to recite that "said second prescribed temperature is within a range of temperature is 20°C to -50°C." The cited references do not teach or suggest these features. Furthermore, in the Office Action the Examiner (in rejecting claim 6) indicated that these features are merely design choice. Applicants submit, however, that this specific temperature range is not merely a matter of design choice and moreover these features are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record.

In view of the foregoing considerations, Applicants therefore submit that claim 1 is allowable over a Tokunaga-APA combination, and that claims 4-6 and 20 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

Claims 7 and 11 recite many features similar to those that patentably distinguish claim 1 from the cited references. Accordingly, it is submitted that claims 7 and 11 are allowable along with their dependent claims.

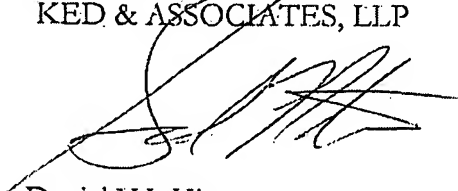
Serial No. 10/632,988
Amendment dated December 17, 2007
Reply to Office Action of August 17, 2007

Docket No. YHK-0115

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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Date: December 17, 2007

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